

Amber Valley & Erewash Support Centre  
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Date: 5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Coronavirus update – educational arrangements during lockdown until February Half Term**

I hope that you and your families are managing during this extremely difficult and challenging time.

Following the government's announcement of further lockdown instructions across England, and in line with Esteem Multi-academy Trust's direction, I am writing to let you know of AVESC's action plan in relation to the specific arrangements which will apply from Wednesday 06 January 2021.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of critical workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and the most vulnerable pupils within our school community. Our priority is to ensure a safe place is provided for these pupils during school hours.

As an alternative provision academy, and with many pupils with an EHCP or having additional needs, we could view the majority of our pupils as 'vulnerable' in one sense or another. However, as I am sure you can appreciate, we will have extreme difficulties in providing staffing for all of our pupils, as our staff will also have to deal with self or family isolation and caring for their own children who are out of school. We will, therefore, as with the previous lockdown period, be making assessments of those families which will need the most support.

The government has published information on the definition of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) and it would help us if you could inform your child's site lead or keyworker if you think your child may fall into this category. You will be informed if your child is to continue to attend their provision by their site lead or keyworker.

All other children who do not fall into this category will need to stay at home, and we ask that you do not send your child into school from tomorrow onwards. However, we will endeavor to support these pupils with a blended learning package which will comprise of remote online learning, educational resource packages and some face to face days at the site or provision they attend.

If attending a site or provision it is extremely important that all pupils follow the site expectations and government guidelines and help to keep themselves, staff and others as safe as possible. Failure to do so may result in a review of your child's educational offer during this time.

During this period our duty and responsibility to safeguarding our pupils remains. We will maintain regular contact with families, and these will either be via face to face meetings at your house (socially distanced and not inside the premises) and telephone conversations. Staff will be asking to speak with both a parent/carer and the pupil. If you have any safeguarding concerns for your child or for any other pupil from the school, please contact the site lead where your pupil attends or their identified key worker.

If your child usually receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this.

I understand that this latest news will have a significant impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates if the situation changes. If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please contact your child's site lead or identified key worker.

Thank you again for your continued support and we will be in touch with any updated information as and when we are informed.

Warm regards,

Mr. T. England  
Headteacher of Amber Valley and Erewash Support Centre